



ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION



The Semaphore Circular

No 667

The Beating Heart of the RNA

March 2017



The Naval Service Memorial in all its glory. Can you believe it will be three years old in June? It is still very original and unique and well worth a visit if you have not yet had a chance. The memorial is at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas near Burton Staffs. The NSM has its own exhibit in the visitors' centre – see if you can find it!

This edition is the on-line version of the Semaphore Circular, unless you have registered with Central Office, it will only be available on the RNA website in the 'Members Area' under 'downloads' at www.royal-naval-association.co.uk and will be emailed to the branch contact, usually the Hon Sec.

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“D’ye hear there” (Branch news)

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Shortcast

Swinging the Lamp

Forms

Glossary of terms

NCM	National Council Member
NC	National Council
AMC	Association Management Committee
FAC	Finance Administration Committee
NCh	National Chairman
NVCh	National Vice Chairman
NP	National President
DNP	Deputy National President
GS	General Secretary
DGS	Deputy General Secretary
AGS	Assistant General Secretary
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

Contacts

Financial Controller	023 9272 3823	michelle@royalnavalassoc.com
Fax	023 9272 3371	
Deputy General Secretary	023 9272 0782	andy@royalnavalassoc.com
Assistant General Secretary (Membership & Slops)	023 9272 3747	nigel@royalnavalassoc.com
S&O Administrator	023 9272 0782	chrissie@royalnavalassoc.com
General Secretary	023 9272 2983	paul@royalnavalassoc.com
Admin	023 92 72 3747	admin@royalnavalassoc.com
Project Semaphore		Sharon@royalnavalassoc.com
Branch Support Officer (North)	07964 721849	belfastblues_812@icloud.com



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RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /
Circulars / Code (shipmate)

Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

RNA Central Office,
Room 209, PP70,
Semaphore Tower,
HM Naval Base,
Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3LT

Dear Shipmate,

We have only had one bomb scare in the last week, as the dredgers for the HMS Queen Elizabeth move to deepen the central harbour area and the 'berthing pocket'. Chatting to the Naval Base Commander last week, the preparation in Portsmouth Dockyard are going very well – with new logistics buildings completing each week and the major jetty work almost done.

I hope you are enjoying the **new look** Semaphore Circular. We have been very lucky to have several days (free) help from the COBSEO Communications expert, Alice Farrow. The Circ is now much easier to use electronically, with hyper-links to make navigation easier – and also with a modern slick look. May I please **BEG** all branch secretaries to pass the Circular out electronically to all branch and club members – as well as covering the essentials at the Branch meeting. We put a lot of effort into producing an up-to-date and informative publication each month for the whole RNA and it is vital that it gets out.

A big thank you to many branches for getting their **year-end returns** in to us, don't forget that at the same time you should complete your on-line form at the Charity Commission, a very easy and quick process for those with income under £5,000 in the year. You will be pleased to hear that I have my nose to the grindstone preparing the RNA's annual report for the National Council on 11 March. I will be sending you a hard copy when it's approved with the Conference Agenda, raffle tickets in time for your April meeting.

Project Semaphore, the iPads for naval veterans without regular personal access to the internet is going along at a fast pace. Training in London, Harrogate and Hereford starts this weekend, when volunteers will receive their own iPads and those for their candidates. I would love to see more applications for these iPads – I know from feedback that some branches are not aware of this exciting programme. Can I please ask that all branch secretaries cover in the next meeting – new applications to sharon@royalnavalassoc.com.

Libor Minibuses. We have ordered the 3 buses from a company in Essex and hope to have one or more at Perth for you to see and try out. The company does the adaption for a wheelchair hydraulic ramp. We will need a few RNA members to come on the 'Build visit' to see the buses and talk about fitting out. If interested give Nigel a ring.

Some more bits and pieces:

- We had an excellent visit to Perth, for a planning meeting for the Conference on **3 June**. Bookings have been coming in at a good pace. We think that some are making their own arrangements for accommodation (which is fine), but are not yet booked for the **Gala Dinner** on the Saturday night. You will not be able to get a ticket on the night – and in fact you need to book the Gala dinner **straight away** with CONA travel and by **15 April**.
- Don't forget to get your Conference **delegate** booked in asap.
- Please pass the word on the Biennial Parade on **10 September** to your branch and any local naval associations. This is a day for all Naval Associations and is a great reunion too.

Kindest regards from the Central Office team

Paul

1. Project Semaphore Newsletter- iPads

This Month's Update from the Project Manager – Sharon Brown.

This month has been all about spreadsheets and collating the data on all the wonderful Volunteers and our candidates to enable the first wave of organisation and allocation of iPads. May seem simple but in reality was a very administrative intensive process. Our Northern Project contact Alan was visiting the HQ on 28 Feb and we had to ensure that all the iPads for those attending the training in Harrogate and those for their candidates were ready for him to take back. A full Jacky Dusty evolution!! The paper work and recording will not only let us know which shipmates have the iPads it will also provide an audit trail that we can present to the Aged Veterans Fund to support the proper use of the funding if required.

Our first training events are nearly upon us, London on 4 Mar and Harrogate on 5 Mar, as you read this they may have already happened. This means we are close to getting iPads out to those digitally isolated veterans.



Important matters must be addressed...competition results!! First I would like to say thank you for all your efforts assisting myself with the Project and either volunteering to support candidates or applying for your iPad and taking that first bold step to join the digital era. Looking at the data today I can confirm that the winners of a bottle of rum each are:

Area with the most candidates – Area 10 with 22 Candidates
Branch with the most candidates – Norwich Branch with 7 Candidates

I would also like to mention a few individuals.

- Gary Daisley from Rayleigh Branch who stepped in to assist Norwich candidates.
- Mike Rubery and Michael Cook from Bridlington Branch who have proactively created a plan together to support all the candidates in their areas
- John Arnold from Crosby Branch who has volunteered to support, on his own, 7 candidates spread across various locations which is currently the most candidates for a single volunteer.

I am looking forward to receiving news of our candidates online in the very near future!!

Sharon Brown, Project Manager, Project Semaphore.

2. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment



This month can you name this establishment No hovering or looking on Google or Wiki!!

The answer will be in next month's edition.

Last month's answer: Prince of Wales Building, HMS Tamar Hong Kong otherwise known as 'the upside down gin bottle' Vice Admiral David Steel (Great friend of the RNA) was first in with the right answer

3. ★ FINANCE CORNER

Dear Shipmates

Year End Returns 2014

They are still 4 Branches who have not submitted their accounts to Central Office for 2014.

Can I please ask for a copy to be returned to Central Office **ASAP**. I have informed your Area NCM that you have still not submitted your accounts, so they might offer what assistance is required or you can ring Rita or me.

They are:

- Area 6 - RNA High Wycombe,
- Area 8 - RNA B'ham Cotteridge
- Area 11 - RNA Redcar
- Area 12 - RNA Banbridge



Year End Returns 2015

Central Office still has 8 Branches and 1 Area that have not submitted their Year End Returns. Can I please ask for a copy to be returned to Central Office **ASAP**.

They are:

- Area 1 – RNA Greenford, Area 1 accounts
- Area 2 – RNA Reigate, RNA Sidcup
- Area 6 – RNA High Wycombe

Area 8 – RNA B'ham Cotteridge
 Area 9 – RNA Sheffield
 Area 11 – RNA Redcar
 Area 12 – RNA Banbridge

When completing the Year End Returns would you please be so kind and use the new formatted form. These can be found on the RNA Website or if you are not connected to the internet you can either ring myself or Rita on telephone 023 92 723823

Part of Decommissioning a Branch

Legal requirement – if your Branch is registered with the Charity Commission you must tell the Charity's Commission that your Branch ceases to exist and the commission must remove it from the register of Charities. You will need to complete a Closure form which can be found on the Charity's website. General Secretary always happy to provide advice or guidance.

Donations

Top 15 donation figures abstracted from various Branches of the 2015 Year End Returns.

	2015	2014
Sea Cadets	£40,929	£20,198
Welfare - (Donated by Branches to assist their own members)	£25,897	£12,558
RBL	£10,661	£7,489
RMRMC	£7,465	£3,472
RNBT	£6,261	£5,235
Unknown - (Donations made recipients not noted on YERs)	£4,855	£240
Hospitals	£2,965	£900
RM Central Fund	£2,350	£924
Hospices	£2,344	£2,004
SSAFA	£2,130	£2,275
Ghurkha Welfare	£1,975	£250
Blind Veterans	£1,725	£620
Mayors Charity	£1,623	£105
RNLI	£1,597	£2,310
Combat Stress	£1,525	£1,271

Charity Donations

If any Branches are unsure regarding the requirements of donating funds to a Charity please see below.

The rule is simple and depends entirely what is in the mind of the person donating money at the moment they do. This might be money in a bucket or collecting tin, buying tickets for a branch raffle or having an event to raise money for a specific project.

So, if you hold an event or collection and it is COMPLETELY clear for whom you are collecting during the collection, then the money can be passed to that charity (even if you are in RNA rig). However, general branch and charity funds, profits from branch events and raffles etc can only be given to charities within our charitable object laid down in the Royal Charter. In brief:

- For serving or ex-serving members of the naval forces in need hardship or distress, and their dependents.
- To further the efficiency of the Naval Service, including recruiting.
- To provide facilities for bring members of the RNA together
- To perpetuate the memory of those who have served in the Naval forces.
- To help members find employment.
- To provide members advice on personal matters etc etc.

Therefore the charities that are fine are those charities that **specifically** help serving and ex-Naval Service such as RNBT, RNRMC, Pembroke house etc. Help for Heroes is fine since they look after Marines. Sea Cadets are good to help since that can come under recruiting. Joint service charities that look after all 3 services, but do help the Navy, are fine too, such as the Legion, BLESMA, Blind Veterans SSAFA and the Not Forgotten Association. I know that many branches have favourite charities they love to support that aren't particularly naval. The point is to ensure that whoever is contributing knows where the money goes - a donor is entitled to assume that the money given to someone in an RNA blazer collecting with an RNA bucket will go for RNA charitable purposes. Here are some of the charities I have seen that may have been supported where a **specific** collection would be more appropriate – **there is absolutely no call here for you to stop supporting them**, just to ensure we collect within the Charity Law Rules and our Charter.

Action for Kids	Age concern	Accordion Band	Alzheimer's Society
Air ambulances	Boys Brigade	Abbey restoration	Breast cancer
Cystic fibrosis	Donn's dream house	Dreams come true	Fishermans Mission
Girl Guides	Stroke Clubs	Headway	Hospices
Guards associations	Jubilee Sailing Trust	Kidney cancer	Marie Cure
Scouts	Xx boys football club	Parkinson UK	Red Cross
RAFA/RAFBF	The Sailors Society (Merchant Navy only)	Sunley foundation	St John's ambulance

I well appreciate that some of this may have been to pay for services (such as St John's), but we have to comply with Charity Law. This is a note for your guidance only. Branch Committees should also be aware that the RNA's preferred charity is now the **Royal Navy and Royal Marines charity**, who are in the best position to judge where the need is greatest in the Naval sector.

Membership Secretaries

I have noticed that some Branches are still sending funds of £10.00 per member to Central Office.

Please note –

At the last Conference in June 2016 held in Reading, the Conference delegates approved a motion to Conference, to increase the annual subscription by £4.00 making the annual subscription £14.00 a year.

Therefore, from the 1 January 2017 Membership fees are £14.00, Overseas £7.00, Life Membership £140.00 (10 x Membership).

If you would be so kind please make sure your Branch Shipmates pay their subscriptions to your **Branch Bank Account** and not Central Office Bank Account.

Slops

Also, at the last Conference in Reading 2016 a motion was passed that the fee for a Certificate of Appreciation was to be £25.00.

Treasurer's Guide

Any Treasurers that hasn't received the Treasurer's Guide please let me know and I will send you a copy.

Standard Cover

I will be producing invoices at the end of March for the Standard Cover of £8.00, this will reflect in your Spring Termly Accounts. Kept at the same rate now for 7 years!!!

Phew ! that's all shipmates for now.

Yours Aye
Michelle

4. ★ RNVC Series - Lt Cdr Malcolm David Wanklyn VC DSO & Two Bars Royal Navy



Born in 1911 to an affluent family in Kolkata, British India, Wanklyn was influenced into a military career at a young age. His father was a successful businessman and engineer who served in the British Army in the First World War and his uncle was a destroyer commander who had a successful war fighting German U-Boats in the First Battle of the Atlantic. He joined the RN at the age of 14 and served in various ships until he joined the Submarine Service in 1933 as a Lieutenant.

After the outbreak of the Second World War, he was given command of HMS *H31* which he commanded from February until August 1940. Wanklyn sailed on patrol in the North Sea, during which he sank one vessel. In August 1940 he was given command of newly commissioned HMS *Upholder*. In December 1940 the submarine was reassigned to the Mediterranean. Wanklyn began the first of his patrols in January 1941 and remained on operations in the Battle of the Mediterranean for the

remainder of his career.

During 15 months of operations, Wanklyn led *Upholder* on 27 patrols and sank 11 Axis merchant and troopships while damaging four more. During his combat career he fought many actions with *Regia Marina* (Italian Navy) warships. He sank one destroyer and one minesweeper, and damaged a light cruiser. In a rare achievement, he also sank three Italian submarines. It amounted to 128,353 tons of enemy shipping. For the sinking of the heavily defended enemy transport SS *Conte Rosso* without working Asdic, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

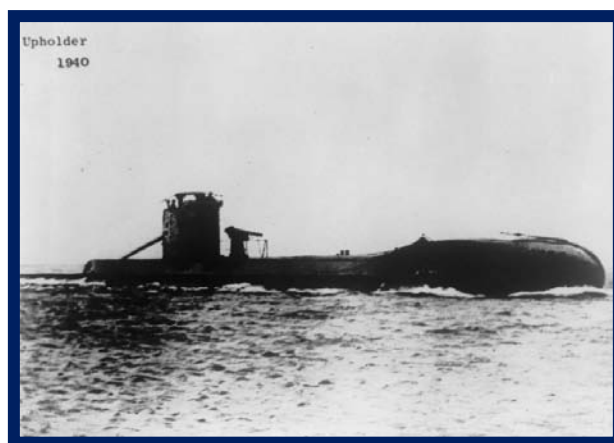
CITATION FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE ADMIRALTY

Whitehall, 6th December, 1941.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the grant of the VICTORIA CROSS for valour and resolution in command of His Majesty's Submarine Upholder, to: Lieutenant Commander Malcolm David Wanklyn, D.S.O., Royal Navy.

On the evening of the 24th of May, 1941, while on patrol off the coast of Sicily, Lieutenant Commander Wanklyn, in command of His Majesty's Submarine Upholder, sighted a south-bound enemy troop-convoy, strongly escorted by Destroyers. The failing light was such that observation by periscope could not be relied on but a surface attack would have been easily seen. Upholder's listening gear was out of action.

In spite of these severe handicaps Lieutenant Commander Wanklyn decided to press home his attack at short range. He quickly steered his craft into a favourable position and closed in so as to make sure of his target. By this time the whereabouts of the escorting Destroyers could not be made out. Lieutenant Commander Wanklyn, while fully aware of the risk of being rammed by one of the escort, continued to press on towards the enemy troop-ships. As he was about to fire, one of the enemy Destroyers suddenly appeared out of the darkness at high speed, and he only just avoided being rammed. As soon as he was clear, he brought his periscope sights on and fired torpedoes, which sank a large troop-ship. The enemy Destroyers at once made a strong counterattack and during the next twenty minutes dropped thirty-seven depth-charges near Upholder.



The failure of his listening devices made it much harder for him to get away, but with the greatest courage, coolness and skill he brought Upholder clear of the enemy and safe back to harbour.

Before this outstanding attack, and since being appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Lieutenant Commander Wanklyn had torpedoed a tanker and a merchant vessel.

He has continued to show the utmost bravery in the presence of the enemy. He has carried out his attacks on enemy vessels with skill and relentless determination, and has also sunk one Destroyer, one U-boat, two troop- transports of 19,500 tons each, one tanker and three supply ships. He has besides probably destroyed by torpedoes one Cruiser and one Destroyer, and possibly hit another Cruiser.

5. ★ TV Channel 5 - Assistance Please

TV Channel 5, are making an exciting two part documentary about Britain's most famous ships. The MV Queen Mary will be the focus of one of our episodes. They are looking for individuals who can share their memories and experiences of the Queen Mary.



A key chapter of the Queen Mary's history is its role during the Second World War as a troop transport ship. They are looking to talk to anyone that has memories of their journeys on board the Queen Mary. In particular, they want to talk to individuals who can recall the tragic sinking of the HMS Curacoa on the 2nd October 1942; Churchill's transatlantic journeys; or the presence of German Prisoners of War on board.

For more information please contact Josh Sykes on 07882 436225 or e-mail Josh.Sykes@channel5.com or by post to Channel 5 Broadcasting Ltd, 17-19 Hawley Crescent, Camden Town London NW1 8TT

6. ★ Perth RNA Conference 3rd/4th June 2017– Update

Shipmates would like to be aware of some important points about Conference;

- Bookings are still being accepted for accommodation in the two 'Conference' hotels; The Station Hotel, where the Conference/Gala Dinner is being held and the Queen's Hotel, directly opposite the Station Hotel (90 second walk). However, Shipmates are advised that accommodation booked in these hotels through CONA Travel Service is close to being sold out. There a number of other accommodation options which can be independently booked for the weekend.
- Shipmates wishing to attend the Gala Dinner Buffet, on Saturday 4th June, that have not already booked through the CONA Holiday Service in the two 'Conference' hotels, must apply for a ticket (£27 per person subject to availability) to: conatravelservices@theukholidaygroup.com or call 01603 886742`



- **It is essential** that any Shipmates who have made independent accommodation arrangements and wish to attend the Conference, or official evening functions, at the Station Hotel must contact the CONA Holiday Service to register as limitations apply.

The Scottish Area Committee

thought you would like to know a bit more about Perth and its surroundings, just in case you need convincing to come to Perth for the RNA Annual National Conference 2017

Perth is a small city located on the banks of the River Tay in the heartland of Scotland. Perthshire is surrounded by beautiful scenery at the gateway to the Highlands of Scotland.

Scone Palace (*pronounced Scoon*), the original home of Scotland's Stone of Destiny, is close to the city of Perth, and it was here that 42 Scottish Kings were crowned. Scone Palace is open to the public and is well worth visiting.

John Knox preached in St. John's Kirk (where we will be holding the Church Service on Sunday 4th June 2017) in 1559, calling for 'the purging of the Churches from idolatry', a sermon which led to the destruction of the four monasteries in Perth. All the old monastic buildings have long gone, however you can still visit St. John's Kirk, see and the house of the Fair Maid of Perth on North Port.

Balhousie Castle, just north of the town centre has been restored in the Scots Baronial style and is now home to the **Black Watch Museum**, which is open to the public and worth a visit.

The Art Gallery and Museum in Charlotte Street, is one of the best for a town of this size. As well

as featuring the history of Perth, you will find collections of pictures and sculpture (*modern as well as historic*), furniture, china, silver and costume.

The Round House, a restored water works, is now the home of the Fergusson Gallery, which contains a collection of the paintings, drawings and sculpture of JD Fergusson, the artist at the forefront of the Scottish 'Colourist' movement.

The restored Victorian Lower City Mills, has a massive working water-wheel and working miller

continuing to mill the product for which Scotland is famous – Oatmeal. There are demonstrations and multi-language interpretative storyboards, bringing history to life.

The pictures above show the Scottish Area Committee hard at work planning the finer details of Conference along with the members of Central Office staff; at the entrance to the Station Hotel, outside Perth Station, with the welcome to Perth sign and in the planning meeting.

Finally for those Shipmates, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, partners and guest who will not be attending the Conference on Saturday!

We're planning a trip to Balhousie Castle for a tour of the Black Watch Museum (*the entrance fee has been waived for this*) and a spot of lunch/afternoon tea (cost approx.: £10 – *TBC dependent on numbers*) for Saturday 3rd June 2017. Visitors will be taken to/from hotels and Balhousie Castle by minibus.

This trip needs to be pre-booked. Please return the attached booking form, there is a blank form at the rear of this edition, if you would like to book any place(s) for this trip.

BALHOUSIE CASTLE / BLACK WATCH MUSEUM TRIP BOOKING FORM

NAME:	
RNA BRANCH:	
NUMBER OF PLACES:	

Please return completed form, by no later than 15th May 2017, to: S/M Ally Stirton. A: 63 Brahan Terrace, Perth, PH1 2LN. E: allystirton@hotmail.co.uk

7. ★ Blonde Joke (We haven't had one for some months....)

The Blond Detective Exam

A policeman was interrogating 3 blondes who were training to become detectives. To test their skills in recognizing a suspect, he shows the first blonde a picture for 5 seconds and then hides it. "This is your suspect, how would you recognize him?" The first blonde answers, "That's easy, we'll catch him fast because he only has one eye!" The policeman says, "Well...uh...that's because the picture shows his PROFILE."

Slightly flustered by this ridiculous response, he flashes the picture for 5 seconds at the second blonde and asks her, "This is your suspect, how would you recognize him?"



The second blonde giggles, flips her hair and says, "Ha! He'd be too easy to catch because he only has one ear!"

The policeman angrily responds, "What's the matter with you two?? Of course only one eye and one ear are **SHOWING** because it's a picture of his profile!! Is **that** the best answer you can come up with?"

Extremely frustrated at this point, he shows the picture to the third blonde and in a very testy voice asks, "This is your suspect, how would you recognize him?" He quickly adds "...think hard before giving me a stupid answer." The blonde looks at the picture intently for a moment and says,

"Hmmm...the suspect wears contact lenses."

The policeman is surprised and speechless because he really doesn't know himself if the suspect wears contacts or not. "Well, that's an interesting answer...wait here for a few minutes while I check his file and I'll get back to you on that."

He leaves the room and goes to his office, checks the suspect's file in his computer, and comes back with a beaming smile on his face. "**Wow!** I can't believe it...it's **TRUE!** The suspect does in fact wear contact lenses. **Good work!** How were you able to make such an astute observation?"

WAIT FOR IT

"**That's easy,**" the blonde replied. "**He can't wear regular glasses because he only has one eye and one ear!**"

8. ★ Donations received for the Central Charities

Central Charities

RNA – Waterloooville	£150.00
RNA – Builth Wells	£ 50.00
W Rollings	£ 36.00
W Entwistle	£ 11.00
W Roper	£ 11.00
P Florey	£100.00
D Brown	£ 11.00
A Macleod- Carey	£ 17.00
B Harrison	£ 10.00
Hospital & Medical Care	£ 68.24
Foy Robert Frank Boraman	£ 20.00
Kathleen Marie “Kit” Clark	£ 40.00
M Techrick	£ 20.00
Muchloved Charity	£178.34
JE Pickles	£ 31.00
AL Palmer	£ 11.00
Gurney	£ 21.00
DG Banham	£ 11.00
P Martin	£ 16.00
EJ Horlick	£ 11.00

In memory of the late

C Seaton	£ 40.00
Norman John Burns	£121.67
William Robb Tosh	£ 25.00
Jack Andow	£ 35.00
Leonard Alden	£150.00
Ian Williams	£213.50
Francis Albert Ward	£328.67
Brian Charleston-Stokes	£117.50

9. ★ HMS Queen Elizabeth Portsmouth arrival - Update



A number of Shipmates and branches have contacted Central Office to enquire if there is any information concerning the arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth to her home port of Portsmouth.

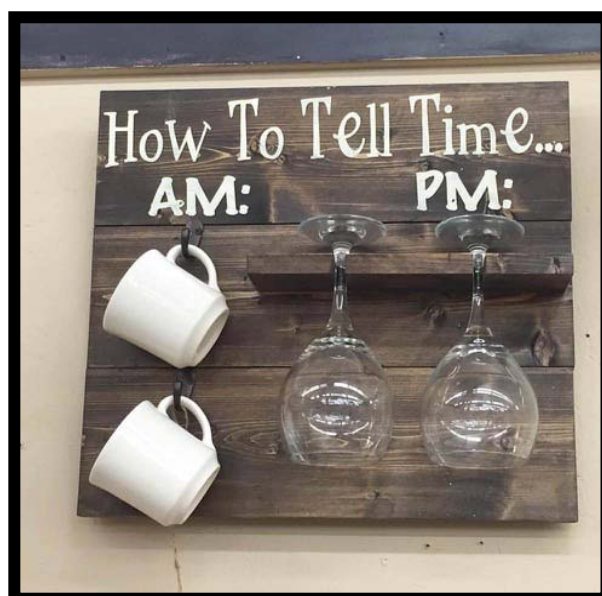
Unfortunately the problem that we have, is that even the Naval Base Commander can't tell you the date, and may not be able to do so until the last moment. This is because the actual build of the carrier has slipped 8 to 12 weeks and when the ship eventually conducts sea trials, which may go well -

or not it may slip again. Finally there is an issue in that first entry into Portsmouth Harbour is limited as the ship can only enter when the wind is 15 knots or less and 1 hour either side of high tide.

Central Office have a good source of intelligence and will let you know as soon as we do. In the meantime the current best guess by the Captain of the Base is either late July or early September.

10. ★ Retirement Clock Joke

This is the clock we use in retirement. It needs no batteries or electricity, it is never fast or slow, and it never stops.



11. Type 42 Association Reunion 003

The Type 42 Association Reunion 003 will be held at HMS Excellent on 22 Jul 2017. Open to all who have served on a Type 42 Destroyer, Discounted tickets for all fully paid up association members, new members can sign up to the association via the website.

BGM Start 1230 hrs Finish 1345 hrs

Reunion Start 1400 hrs, Finish 2100 hrs

HMS Excellent, Sports Field

Tickets: Members £10 + 1 Guest £10 & Non Members £30

For Info email: chairman@type42association.co.uk For tickets email: deanpullom@yahoo.co.uk

Web site: www.type42association.co.uk click on forum or visit our Facebook page Type 42 Association

12. ★ Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC)

An intimate dinner attended by HRH The Princess Royal has officially marked the launch of a year-long 10th birthday celebration for the Royal Navy's national charity, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC).

The dinner, held on HMS Victory in Portsmouth on Wednesday (25 January), was hosted by the Second Sea Lord of the Royal Navy, Vice Admiral Jonathan Woodcock OBE, who spoke of the special relationship between the Royal Navy and its charity.



Guests at the event, which included Trustees, Vice-Patrons and friends of the RNRMC, such as Mr Nigel Atkinson, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire; Mr Lance Batchelor, Vice-Patron, RNRMC; Sir Michael Hintze AM, Vice-Patron, RNRMC, gathered in Nelson's Cabin to hear about the charity's legacy of work – and the imperative to support the Naval Service into the next decade.

Bill Thomas, RNRMC Chairman, said: "The Royal Navy has been central to Britain's past and is critical to our future. In war and in peace, the remarkable men and women of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines work tirelessly to protect us and the freedom we enjoy.

"We know that longer nine month deployments place additional strain on family life. Social isolation and the need for residential care in old age affect almost 50 per cent of veterans, compared to 28 per cent a decade ago; a growing number of all ages are being assessed for mental health problems.

"We enter our tenth year with a greater understanding of the need and with renewed determination to raise the funds - £10 million over the next three years - to ensure that every member of our extended family knows that we value their service and that we are there for them to provide practical support."

The event was especially poignant for the Charity as HRH The Princess Royal confirmed the renewal of her Patronage of the charity for another three years.

The birthday launch marks a year-long calendar of events and fundraising campaigns planned by The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, which can be found on the charity's website (rnrmc.org.uk) and social media channels.



The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity was officially registered with Companies House as an incorporated company limited by guarantee on 10 January 2007 and on 2 February 2007 as an Incorporated Charity with the Charity Commission.

In partnership with the Charity Commission, the RNRMC was able to identify over 60 existing Royal Navy and Royal Marines funds for merger. While some of these funds were small, such as prize funds, others were extremely large, due to a long history of saturation and investment.

Since its formation the charity has distributed over £45 million in grants to those in uniform, to their families waiting at home for their safe return and to service veterans. The charity estimates it has approximately 700,000 members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines family in its beneficiary pool.

Some of the charity's recent grantmaking projects include funding a family accommodation block of flats at HMNB Portsmouth for families to enable time together; nationwide funding for relationship counselling for families through Relate Counselling; subsidising Kings Camp activity holidays for children at naval bases; and support for veterans and families transitioning from Service to civilian life.

13. ★ Skin Cancer Update

The Loch Class Frigates Association (a good CONA friend) very kindly forwarded the following information highlighting relating to skin cancer.

If you have been diagnosed with skin cancer you may well qualify for a lump sum or regular pension, if it is believed that the tumour has developed as a result of sun exposure during your period of service.

If you have developed a Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) or Melanoma you can apply to the War pensions Agency (particularly if your services was in sunny climates) Veterans UK have a helpful team who are able to support you to complete the necessary application. You can contact them at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk> or by phone 0808 1914218. Please see below a letter forwarded to the Loch Class Frigates Association highlighting this issue

"Dear Andrew

I was in the Med from 1952-55. It was sunny in summer!

*In later years (60+) I have developed skin patches that have been treated with SOLARAZE or freezing. However, about 10-15 years ago I had to have one surgically removed and last year another on my forehead. When I saw a dermatologist last November he said " **Ex Navy? Served in warm climate? You should be claiming for this?**" He promptly downloaded and printed off the enclosed which I forward. I knew nothing of that scheme but am in the process of claiming as the last bit excised was BCC (Basal Cell Carcinoma). It has healed very well but I still get scalp issues treated with a prescribed shampoo and cream.*

You might think others in the Association also have grounds for claiming. Best wishes and may 2017 be healthy and happy. Sincerely Peter Malindine

14. ★ Open invite to RNA Shipmates visiting Portsmouth

Shipmates, whether serving or not, and all Ex–Service Associations are cordially invited to the **RNA Portsmouth Club Room** for a Tot of Rum, Lunch and a Dinner Time Session [DTS] (lunchtime social) on the Sunday of your reunion weekend.

If you wish to take this offer up please contact the RNA Portsmouth Branch Secretary, as soon as possible. We will need the approximate numbers attending 10 days in advance of arrival.



Our Clubroom is situated upstairs in the Royal Naval Comrades Club, 86 Lake Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 4HF.

In addition, we have an Open House in our Club Room every Friday night from 1900. Just drop in if you are in the area, we would love to see you with or without your wife partner/oppos.

Our Club Room is also available for bookings for Birthday Parties, Wedding Anniversaries and Wakes. If you wish to hold your actual Reunion here and the numbers are too many for our upstairs room, with enough notice it is possible to book out the RNC Club Main Bar and Entertainment room downstairs. Please phone or email me for further details.

John “Whiskey” Walker MBE

Branch Secretary

RNA Portsmouth Branch

Royal Naval Comrades Club

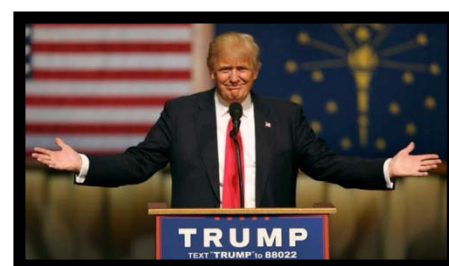
86 Lake Road

Portsmouth PO1 4HF Tel: 023 9273 3114 Email: secpompeyrna@gmail.com

15. ★ President Trump False News Joke

President Trump invited the Pope for lunch on his mega yacht, the Pope accepted and during lunch, a puff of wind blew the Pontiff's hat off and right into the water. It blew off about 50 feet, then the wind died down and it just floated on top of the water.

The crew and the secret service were scrambling to launch a boat to retrieve it, when Trump waved them off, saying "Never mind, boys, I'll get it."



The Donald climbed over the side of the yacht, walked on the water to the hat, picked it up, walked back on the water, climbed back into the yacht, and handed the Pope his hat.

The crew was speechless, the security team, and the Pope's entourage were speechless. No one knew what to say, not even the Pope.

That afternoon, NBC, CBS, ABC, MSNBC, CNN all covered the story. Their banner headlines read, "TRUMP CAN'T SWIM"!

16. ★ BOOK REVIEWS

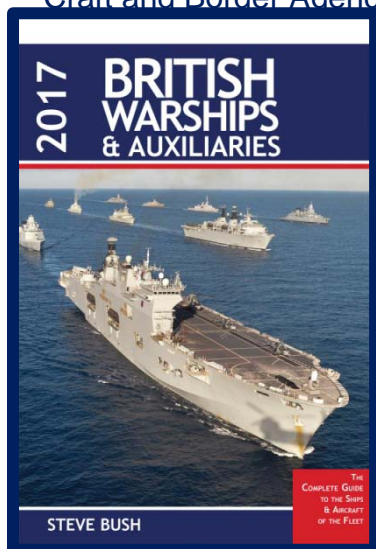
The books mentioned below are available from 'NavyBooks'. Run by naval people for naval people. 100s of titles – 1000s of books www.navybooks.com.

Using Code 'RNA 101' at the Checkout Cart RNA members can obtain a 5% on-line discount on all books. (except Magazines, Bargain & Bin End categories)

BRITISH WARSHIPS & AUXILIARIES 2017

£9.99

The fully revised, updated and respected guide to the ships, aircraft and weapons of the fleet. Over 80 colour photos. Complete with pennant numbers and silhouettes. Includes Royal Marine Craft and Border Agency vessels.



The book starts with a “no-holds barred” review of the state of the Royal Navy followed by sections detailing the fleets of the Royal Navy, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the support vessels operated under contract by Serco. Also included are the vessels of the Royal Marines, Army and the Border Force. Each class entry includes a full colour photograph together with a class listing, pennant numbers, technical specifications and brief notes. Similar sections cover the aircraft and weapons operated by the Royal Navy.

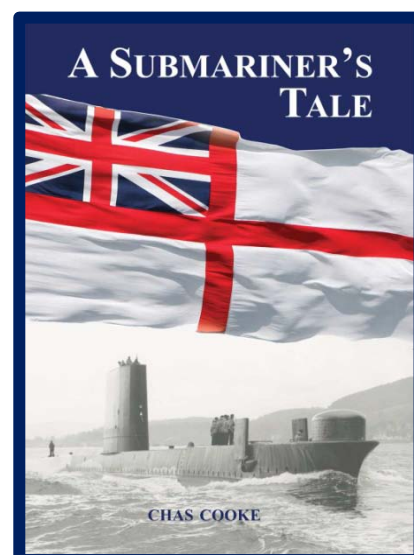
The book concludes with a listing of those ships preserved within the UK and operating in a secondary role after decommissioning and a summary of those vessels which have been scrapped since the previous edition.

A SUBMARINER'S TALE

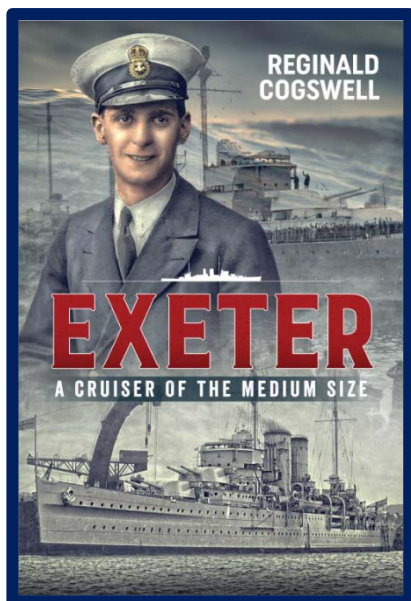
£10.99

A true voice of 'submarining' in the 70s and 80s. Ex POTI Chas Cooke tells the story of his life in the Royal Navy but concentrates his tale on life in submarines (boats). He writes with verve and relish, including details of 'how it was' that some might perhaps leave unsaid when describing their underwater experiences. The fun side, the dark side and the operational side are all here – but it is the fun side that predominates. The author obviously enjoyed, almost, every moment of his submarine career and is rightly proud to have served as a Royal Navy submariner.

If you were there – this will remind you, if you have only ever wondered about life in a cramped black tube underwater this will give you the facts – and the laughs.



EXETER - A CRUISER OF THE MEDIUM SIZE: £20.00



The title of this book are words Reginald Cogswell used to describe HMS EXETER. In June 1926, a grammar school boy from Westbury Wiltshire, he joined the Royal Navy as an Electrical Artificer 4th Class. More than 40 years later, having retired as a Lieutenant Commander MBE, he wrote of his experiences.

The book covers just a small portion of Lt Cdr Gogswell's naval career, from August '36 to February '40 when he served as the Warrant Officer (E) aboard *HMS EXETER*. Those 43 months encompassed peace and war, aid to civil power during riots in Trinidad, helping earthquake victims at Talcahuano Chile, family separation and re-unions, calm seas and the brutal reality of battle. In setting down his memories of peace time ship visits to the ports of South America, the transition to war and the bloody truth of battle at sea and its aftermath Reginald Cogswell opens a window into the Royal Navy of the period and the impact of WWII. This is not a history of naval strategy and tactics or the manoeuvres of battle at sea, but a most beautifully expressed

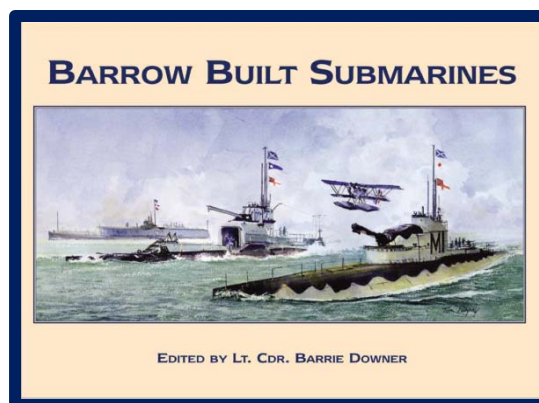
story of one man's personal experience of peace and war.

"fascinating reading and good to see a style of writing like that -- made me feel as if I was there"

David Verghese, Naval Historian & Author **Release Date: 31 March 2017**

BARROW BUILT SUBMARINES: £25.00

This book forms a part of the NavyBooks series on warships built at the many shipyards around UK. However, it is also slightly different, while the expected technical details and specifications are included, as well as much interesting history of the employment and operations of the submarines pictured, and the men that served in them, every image is a painting and not a photograph. The book starts in 1900 when 'Vickers Sons and Maxim Ltd' of Barrow-In-Furness took the order to build the first submarine, a Holland Class, for the Royal Navy. It concludes with a painting of HMS ASTUTE leaving Barrow for sea trials in 2010. The book includes an index of every 'Barrow Built Boat' from 1901 to 2016. The book is not only a fine work of art, fit to grace any bookshelf or coffee table but it is also a very useful reference for anyone interested in the history of submarines and, indeed, the history of the Barrow in Furness shipyard.



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"This book is a tribute to the work of Barrow shipyard and an easily read capsule of the Submarine Service over the years. I commend it to you". Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour CB, former Flag Officer Submarines. **Release Date: 31 March 2017**

17. Londonderry Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations 6/7th May 2017



To all Shipmates,

The Battle of The Atlantic Commemorations will be held over the weekend 6th and 7th May 2017 in Londonderry. The Programme is as follows:-

Saturday 6th May - 1900 for 1930 Dinner in the City Hotel.

Sunday 7th May-

1015. Parade musters at The RBL Club Waterside.

1030. Parade marches off.

1040. Parade arrives at All Saints Church.

1100. Church Service Commences

1210. Parade marches past en route to The RBL Club where light refreshments will be served.

Should any Shipmate wish to attend the Dinner the cost will be £30.00 per head; the cut-off date is 14 April 2016. Please forward a cheque to cover the cost of relevant number of shipmates attending. The Dress for all Functions will be RNA Rig.

Should any changes to the above programme arise Branches will be informed soonest. For further details please contact Frank Brown Hon Sec Londonderry RNA.

frankif22brown@gmail.com

18. ★ Frog Joke (Sorry !!)

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patricia Whack.

'Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday.' Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it's okay, he knows the bank manager.

Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral. The frog says, 'Sure. I have this,' and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfect.



Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office. She finds the manager and says, 'There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral.'

She holds up the tiny pink elephant. 'I mean, what in the world is this?'

(Shipmates you will love this !!!)

The bank manager looks back at her and says...
'It's a knickknack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan, His old man's a Rolling Stone.'

(You're singing it, aren't you? Yeah, I know you are...)



19. Update of RNA & Naval Associations Deployment to Ireland on the MV Marco Polo (Renamed HMS Marco Polo) - 'Mini Cruise' 29 Sep -02 October 2017

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS



Just a quick update on the Naval Associations Irish Sea Deployment on HMS Marco Polo 'Mini- Cruise'. The ship is under sailing orders from Liverpool at 1900 on Friday 29th September 2017, full details are available below.

The cruise is currently exclusively booked for RNA and CONA shipmates which can only continue for a limited period Shipmates who would like to attend are required to place a deposit of £100. However, to encourage more Shipmates to book early and ensure the exclusivity the RNA have successfully negotiated with CONA Holiday Service to reduce the deposit so it can be paid in two

sums of £50, one now and the other by 31st January.

Come along and get the feel of the sea under your feet and have a 'stonkingly' great time. The drinks package alone is worth it! Look;

Why not add a *'Drinks Inclusive Package' at a supplement of £15 per person per night**. This includes: House wine, draught beer and soft drinks by the glass during meal hours in the restaurants: Draught beer, house wines, cocktails and other alcoholic drinks by the glass from all bars during opening hours (excluding premium brands): Soft drinks and juices by the glass from all bars during opening hours.

** The drinks package is only available if all occupants of the cabin book it in advance for the 3 night duration. (Exclusions apply).*

So Shipmates what are you waiting for please book up as early as you possibly can so that the cruise remains as a 'naval deployment'. Full details of the cruise and the booking form can be found at the rear of this Semaphore Circular.

So why not come along and swing that lantern.....

RNA Longcast

2017	
11 March	National Council Meeting
4 April	Flick Drummond MP visits Central Office
07 Apr	Open Day
07 Apr	Deadline for SOC nominations
06 May	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting - Beccles
12 May	Open Day
02-04 Jun	RNA Conference – Perth
02 Jun	AMC /FAC / National Council Meeting/SOC
03 Jun	SOC (Wash up)
04 Jun	Parade and Church Service
17 Jun	6 Area Meeting – 1300 Chesham and Amersham
24 Jun	National Armed Forces Day - Liverpool
30 Jun	Open Day
01 Jul	RNA Dublin Summer BBQ
27 Jul	Mid-year Budget Review
05 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting - Stowmarket
11 Aug	Open Day
25 Aug	FAC
26 Aug	AMC
01 Sep (ish)	Possible arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth (V flexible date)
06 Oct	Open Day
09 Sep	National Council Meeting
10 Sep	Biennial Parade
29 Sep - 02 Oct	CONA Cruise (Liverpool –Dublin- Bristol)
30 Sept	Chichester Branch 70 th anniversary event
20 Oct	RNA Dublin- Trafalgar Night Dinner
21 Oct	RNA Chard -30 year Commissioning Anniversary and Trafalgar Night Dinner
04 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
17 Nov	FAC
18 Nov	AMC
25 Nov	6 Area Meeting – 1300 Royston RNA (Eternit Sports & Social Club)
09 Dec	National Council Meeting

Nominations for Standing Orders Committee 2017

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries

Two members of the standing Orders Committee need to be elected/re-elected at Conference 2017. Those standing down are eligible to be re-elected. SOC elections shall be held in accordance with Rule 18 (c) for the seats held by S/mates Paul Harries (Area 7) and Trevor Howard (Area 10), both members have indicated their intention to stand again.

Each Branch may nominate **one Full or Life member** as a candidate for election to the Standing Orders Committee, **subject to the approval of the Branch to which the candidate belongs**. A nil return is not required.

NAME OF NOMINEE

PROPOSED BY..... BRANCH

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

.....

.....

E mail Post code

Brief history of nominee in the Association. Continue on separate sheet if necessary.

CHAIRMAN (signed).....(dated)

SECRETARY

(signed).....(dated)

If the Candidate is **not** a member of the proposing Branch, this section must be completed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Candidate's **own** Branch.

Candidate's Branch

.....

We support this Nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch)

.....

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's

Branch).....

Candidate I accept this nomination and undertake to attend as many Standing Orders Committee Meetings as is possible.

Signature of Candidate

.....

This form should be despatched to be received at the Central Office no later than **7 April 2017** Nominations received after this date cannot be included in the Ballot.

Delegate to Annual Conference 2017 Perth

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

- a) **Each Branch which has complied with Rule 16(c)**, (*No Branch shall be permitted to send a delegate to the Conference unless it has observed the regulations of the Association in regard to the return of balance sheets, the payment of subscriptions and the formation of Branches. This provision has no application to the right of, and expectation for, ships and establishments to send a delegate to the Conference.*) but subject to Rule 10(c), (*Associate members are eligible to act as a Branch Delegate at Area meetings and Conferences, provided that they have completed three years continuous membership of the Association immediately prior to election as Delegate*) and has been in commission for at least three months by the date of a Conference shall be entitled to nominate one eligible Association Member as its Delegate to attend a Conference.
- b) Each Branch nominating a Delegate shall send details to the Council to arrive not less than one week before the date of Conference. A Branch may change its nominated Delegate provided the Council is notified not less than twenty four hours before the Conference.

Branch		Area	
Name of Delegate			
Car registration		Passenger Name	
Delegate's Address			
	Telephone No	Post Code	
e-mail			
Number of Observers			
Name of Branch Hon Secretary			
Contact telephone No: (if not branch Hon Sec)			
Contact e-mail address			
Name and Address for correspondence (if not branch Hon Sec)			

NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2016 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2017 have been received in RNA Central Office (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.

A letter confirming a delegates attendance will be sent prior to Conference. This letter should be brought to Conference to confirm eligibility to be a Delegate. There will be no additions to the delegate list on the day.

CONFERENCE TRIP – Saturday 4 June 2017**BALHOUSIE CASTLE / BLACK WATCH MUSEUM TRIP BOOKING FORM**

NAME:	
RNA BRANCH:	
NUMBER OF PLACES:	

Please return completed form, by no later than 15th May 2017, to: S/M Ally Stirton. A: 63 Brahan Terrace, Perth, PH1 2LN. E: allystirton@hotmail.co.uk